DEMAND XX—FISHERIES.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 2,56,429 under Demand XX—Fisheries.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—INDUSTERIES INCLUDING RUBBER FACTORY.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,15,182 under Demand XXI—Industries including Rubber Factory.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I support the demand. It is encouraging to find that the Director is heart and soul in the matter and doing his best to encourage further industries. All the same I have to state that an important industry has escaped his attention. Among the industries mentioned in the Report come the Ceramic Factory, the Plywood Factory, the Punalur Paper Mills, the Travancore Rubber Works, the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals, etc. I do not know how the most important match factory escaped his attention. A match factory was established at Mudiyal under the name of the "Malabar Match Factory." A large number of citizens from Trivandrum became shareholders of that factory and it was being conducted under the management of Peirce Leslie & Co. Since the establishment charges grew heavy it could not be continued further. Later on it was purchased by A. V. Thomas & Co. of Alleppey and till the middle of 1118 there appears to have been some match manufactured by that company. By the middle of 1118 it was purchased by another company, The Vanchinad Match Manufacturing Company who are conducting it very successfully. It can be seen by a reference to the budget that the amount budgeted for the year 1119 under match duty was only Rs. 50,000 but the actual receipts come to Rs. 3,50,000. It was the Vanchinad Match factory that contributed that amount by way of duty. That factory worked very efficiently and it was gratifying to find that it maintains more than 300 families, of Travancoreans, men, women and children all living close by, by giving them all sorts of amenities besides having a canteen of their own to look to their needs. That such an enterprising factory should escape attention is not very satisfactory. I understand also that they are able to work two shifts per diem and producing 4,000 gross matches for a day. That quantity will be sufficient for the consumption of the whole of Travancore if we take one match per head per diem as the normal quantity. Although their demand may have increased now, by giving proper

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

assistance and amenities to it, the factory may be able to turn out more than four shifts per diem. Even in purchasing the plots for the factory I had something to do and so I know the ins and outs of the factory from the very beginning. It has been managed by a German expert at the beginning at a very high cost. It is doubtful whether any other factory in southern India can compete with that. So far as.....

President : At present it is probably the biggest factory south of Bombay.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Again, there was a factory at Tenmalai which has ceased to exist.

President : It is not correct. Its last breaths are going on. (Laughter).

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : It can be seen from the report of the department that the factory was having many concessions of tax. land, etc. None of these things seem to have been extended to this factory. In this connection it is very necessary to know what is the policy of Government in regard to factories conducted in Travancore in which Travancoreans take part and invest their capital and Travancore Labour is engaged as against the factories existing outside but who dump their things into the market and compete with the industries in the State. It is gratifying to find that this factory intends manufacturing wood-wool, pill-boxes, slate-blades, bobbins, etc. on a very large scale. I hope and pray that such enterprises should be given sufficient encouragement and that the Government would see that more men are actuated to take up more work in this direction. With these words I support the demand.

Mr. M. Govindan : I too support the demand and in doing so I feel that the salvation of the country depends upon its complete industrialisation. I know the present head of the department is full of ideas. Unless a department has as its head a person who has got sufficient imagination to chalk out new methods of making money by the development of industries, the enterprise would not be successful.

Now, the present demand is only for a lakh and odd rupees. We recognise that industrialisation is one of the most important things for the development of the country. You, Sir, have always been emphasising that point. The small agricultural holdings that we have will not be enough to maintain us. Money must flow into the country and the only method is to produce manufactured articles and send them out and get money into Travancore. I congratulate Mr. Chacko on the very great success of his enterprise. He has got such an imagination. Some experiments naturally fail

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Govindan.]

and we are bound to face them and suffer the consequences, but that the method of making trials all over the country is necessary before we can industrialise it is quite clear. His idea is to manufacture silk and for that purpose cultivate mulberry trees here. "Let us have more silk worms, more cocoons and hence more silk" he says. But I do not know whether all parts of Travancore are fit by climatic conditions for the production of silk. However, I think advice has to be taken so that we may try experiments in various places and if they are successful we can be proud that we can produce a large quantity of silk in the country. With these words I support the demand.

Mr. A. N. Satyanesan : സർ, ഞാൻ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. വിഭവസമ്പന്നമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ദീർഘകാലങ്ങളായി അതിന്റെ നിക്ഷേപങ്ങളും മൂടിവയ്ക്കപ്പെട്ടതായി മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങയുടെ വിപ്ലവപരമായ വ്യാവസായിക നയം രാജ്യത്തു് ഒരു സാമ്പത്തിക നവയുഗം സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു എന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ തെല്ലും അതിശയോക്തിയില്ല. ഏതൊരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെയും ക്ഷേമാഭിവൃദ്ധി ആ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വ്യാവസായിക പരിവർത്തന നയത്തിൽ അന്തർഭവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള നില ഒരു പുതിയ രൂപത്തിനു സർവ്വത്ര വ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാലഘട്ടമാണിതു്. സർ, അങ്ങു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാക്ഷാത്തായ പരിപോഷണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വ്യാവസായികമായ പരിവർത്തനം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയപ്പോൾ ചിലക്കെല്ലാം വിഷമവും വെറുപ്പും തോന്നിയിരുന്നു. എങ്കിലും സധീരം അങ്ങു സമാരംഭിച്ചതായ വിപ്ലവകരമായ വ്യാവസായികനയം ഉത്കർഷേച്ഛുക്കളുടെ പൂർണ്ണസഹകരണത്തോടുകൂടി മുമ്പോട്ടു നയിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു വ്യാവസായികമായി അങ്ങു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള അത്മാർത്ഥമായ സേവനങ്ങളേയും, സ്ഥായിയായ നേട്ടങ്ങളേയും പല രാജ്യങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ മാതൃകയായി സ്വീകരിച്ചു വരുന്നുവെന്നു കാണാം.

സർ, അഖിലഭാരത വ്യാവസായിക പ്രവർത്തക സംഘത്തിന്റെ കേരളബോർഡിന്റെ ഒരു യോഗം അടുത്തകാലത്തു് കൊച്ചിൻസ്റ്റോറിൽ തൃശ്ശൂരിൽ വച്ചു് നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ അതിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിച്ച ആ മഹാനുഭാവൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു് ഒന്നുകിൽ രാജ്യത്തെ വ്യാവസായപരമാക്കുക, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മരിക്കുക, എന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ നാം എത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിട

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ത്തോളം അങ്ങ് ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയോടു കൂടി ഈ സംഗതി വിവേചിച്ച് പൊതുവേ പുതിയ സംരംഭവികാസം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു മുമ്പ് തന്നെ വ്യാവസായികരണത്തിനു അടിസ്ഥാനം ഉറപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ അത്യന്തം സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശവും ലക്ഷ്യവും വേണ്ട പോലെ വിവേചിച്ച് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ നയിക്കുന്നതിന് തക്ക ആളുകളുടെ അഭാവം ഇവിടെ ഞാൻ കാണുന്നു എന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത മറച്ച് വയ്ക്കുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നില്ല. വ്യാവസായിക പ്രവർത്തനം മുമ്പോട്ടു നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിന്, അങ്ങയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശവും ലക്ഷ്യവും വേണ്ടപോലെ വിവേചിച്ച് നടത്താൻ തക്ക ആളുകൾ അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. സർ, ഇവിടെ വമ്പിച്ച വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ പരിപുഷ്ടമാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെതന്നെ ഗ്രാമീണവ്യവസായങ്ങളും കുടിൽ വ്യവസായങ്ങളും അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൽ അങ്ങേയ്ക്കുള്ള താല്പര്യം അഭിവാച്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ബഹുമാന്യനായ ഡയറക്ടർ പ്രാചീനകാലം മുതൽ നടന്നുവന്നതായ വ്യവസായസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ പലതും നിറുത്തുകയും ഈ വിഷമഘട്ടത്തിൽ അവയുടെ സുഗമമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു വിഷമമുണ്ടാക്കി വരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: May I ask the member what he means by "Putting obstruction in the way of old institutions".

Mr. A. N. Satyanesan: സർ, ദീർഘകാലമായി നെയ്ത്ത് കുടിൽവ്യവസായം എന്നനിലയിൽ നടന്നിവന്ന അനേകം സ്കൂളുകളുടെ ഗ്രാൻറു ഈ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ചില്ലറ കാരണങ്ങൾവച്ചുകൊണ്ട് വ്യവസായഡയറക്ടർ പിടിക്കുകയും അടുത്ത നിമിഷത്തിൽതന്നെ തിരിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന നയം നല്ലതല്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Sir,

President: Is it any personal explanation?

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Yes, Sir. I have replied.....

President: The honourable member may speak in Malayalam.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: ഇൻറർപ്പുലേഷൻ സമയത്ത്, ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പറുടെ ചോദ്യത്തിന് ഉത്തരമായി അദ്ദേഹത്തോടും ഉപചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ച അംഗങ്ങളോടും ഈ കാര്യത്തെസംബന്ധിച്ച് വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. തീരേ അനുകൂലമായിട്ടുള്ള നിലയിൽ പല സ്കൂളുകളിലും ആളുമാറാട്ടംകൂടി കാണിക്കത്തക്ക രീതി

[Mr. E. I. Chacko]

യിൽ ഗ്രാൻറു വെറുതെ വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ചില സ്കൂളുകളിലെ ഗ്രാൻറു നിറുത്തിവെയ്ക്കുകയും മറ്റും ചെയ്തതിൽ ഡയറക്ടർ അക്രമം ചെയ്തതായി വിചാരിക്കുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതു് വളരെ മനസ്താപമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ആ സ്കൂളുകൾക്കെല്ലാം ആദ്യമായി ഒരു വാർണിംഗ് കൊടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടു് രണ്ടാമത്തെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ഷനു് നന്നാകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കി വീണ്ടും ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുകയും മറ്റുമാണു് ഈ ഡയറക്ടർ ചെയ്തിരുന്നതു്.

Mr. A. N. Satyanesan : സർ, ഡയറക്ടരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ അതർഹിക്കുന്ന പ്രാധാന്യത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ചില്ലറ തകരാറുകൾ കണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചാൽതന്നെയും ഈ യുദ്ധാസംഭവവികാസകാലത്തു് അവയെ അത്ര വലിയ കാര്യമായി ഗണിക്കാതെ മുമ്പോട്ടു് കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ സഹായിക്കുകയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ കുടിൽ വ്യവസായത്തിനു് കൂടുതൽ പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകി നയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്.

Mr. E. I. Chacko : ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വെറുതേ ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണോ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു്?

Mr. A. N. Satyanesan : ദീർഘകാലമായി, പത്തിരുപത്തഞ്ചു കൊല്ലമായി, തുടർന്നു നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതും ഇതുവരെ യാതൊരു ഡയറക്ടരുടേയും ദോഷാരോപണങ്ങൾക്കു പാത്രീഭവിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതുമായ ഈവക സ്കൂളുകൾക്കു് ഇതുവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു വെറുതേയാണു് ധനസഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു് എന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ എനിക്കു് ഒരുവിധത്തിലും സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. പക്ഷേ പുതിയ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ സൂക്ഷ്മദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ കുറവുകൾ കണ്ടേയ്ക്കാം. എങ്കിലും ഇന്നത്തെ സംഭവവികാസത്താൽ ഈ കാലസ്ഥിതി പരിഗണിച്ചു് അതിനു് ഒരു മാർജിൻ ഇട്ടു് അതിനെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതലയുണ്ടു്. സർ, അങ്ങയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തേയും ലക്ഷ്യത്തേയും മനസ്സിലാക്കി സാർവത്രികമായിട്ടുള്ള വ്യവസായനയം പുരോഗമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് അടിയന്തിരമായ ശ്രമം കേന്ദ്രീഭവിപ്പിച്ചു തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള പിൻതുണ എല്ലായ്പോഴും ജനപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നും ലഭിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പരിപൂർണ്ണ വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഡിമാൻഡിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. I. Chacko : Sir, I am glad to have this opportunity which I did not get elsewhere for acquainting the honourable members of this House with the possible development of some of our various lines of industries, particularly of the small scale and cottage type, in the near future. The other day, when the honourable member Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar made a reference in the course of his speech to the possibility of manufacturing sago out of arrow root it reminded me of an observation made by an American tourist, who visited Trivandrum some months ago and stayed in the Mascot Hotel. What he said was that there was no reason why there should be any poverty in Travancore as long as tarrow grew wild here. Americans use the word tarrow for arrowroot. When a friend of mine told me this, it set me thinking about the heaps of dried chips of arrowroots I have seen lying in the godowns of the Alleppey merchants ready to be shipped to America, the United Kingdom and other countries. It was then that I understood what use they were going to make of these dried chips which our poor people thought were not of much use to this country in any way. In America and other countries where these arrowroot chips are exported, they are converting these chips into delicious biscuits for being reimported to India for our use and for sale to us at very high prices packed in beautiful containers and with enchanting labels.

Similarly, in regard to tapioca, I hope the honourable members of this House have perused with interest the bulletin that I published from the Department about tapioca and its commercial uses. I am glad that one of the members made specific reference to that in his speech this morning. I hope the House is aware that more than anybody else I was responsible for originating the tapioca starch industry in Travancore. It took me about six months to produce one bag of this tapioca starch and for getting it tested by the A. D. Cotton Mills of Quilon who promised their hearty co-operation for testing it and also for introducing it to the Ahamedabad and Bombay Mills for the purpose of sizing of cloth. Before the outbreak of the Japanese war, starch for sizing cloth which used to come from Java and Malaya, which was called *Ferina* and which was supposed to have been manufactured out of potato, was imported in large quantities to India. But, with the outbreak of the Japanese war, *Ferina* could not be obtained and as a substitute tapioca starch was proposed to be tried. After I succeeded in making one bag of starch by persuasion and coaxing of some of the harijan villagers out at Valiathura, and sent it for testing in the A. D. Cotton Mills, I was awaiting the result of the test as if one would wait for the result of a very big examination. Fortunately for us and for the country, they said after testing that the result was satisfactory, although it was not as good as the ferina

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. E. I. Chacko.]

which was being imported from Java. I remonstrated with the Mill authorties and I asked them that as long as they had found that our starch yielded good results whether they will not take this opportunity of helping the poor villagers by purchasing half of the requirements from them. They were good enough to agree readily. Their requirement was six tons per month and out of these they placed an order for three tons with me which I distributed to the villages round about Trivandrum. I had to pay these villagers money from my own pocket to make the first bag of starch which took them about two weeks. As soon as they produced the starch, the poor villagers were given ready cash from the Sri Mulam Institute of which I was then and am still the Honorary Secretary. As soon as this was known, the neighbouring villagers also took it up and asked me to take the starch from them also. Thus, within about six months time the industry spread like wild fire throughout the length and breadth of Travancore and, had it not been for the unfortunate predicament in which Travancore found herself in the matter of food supplies owing to the war, Government would not have stopped it and this industry would have been a thriving concern now. Just a month before the prohibition of the conversion of tapioca into starch, the Government, I understand, were able to make a revenue of a lakh of rupees by levying a duty of a rupee per cwt on this starch.

Sir, I was speaking about arrow root. Now tapioca has to be grown, unlike arrowroot. Arrowroot is a plant which grows wild all over the State and people are even destroying it as a weed. Arrowroot does not require any particular area or good land for its cultivation. It can be grown under the shade of trees. Generally, no plant grows under the shade of trees, but arrow root grows anywhere. If this arrow root is converted into starch, we could export that starch even now. We shall have a very good demand for starch from America and Australia after the war.

Now, let me just inform the House of some of the experiments in new cottage industries which have been conducted in the Department's demonstration and experimental unit under the kind sanction of the Government.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, May I ask one question ? Whether the honourable member's attention has been drawn to a recent article in one of the Dailies where a reference was made to the possibility of manufacturing sugar out of sawdust ?

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Sir, they may be able to do so many things. Any way, I am not aware of that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

After some of the experiments succeeded especially the manufacture of hand made paper, I pressed on the attention of Government that no industry can succeed without spending money on experiments and requested them to kindly allot a sum of a few thousand rupees for conducting experiments in various kinds of cottage industries. I am glad to say that the Dewan-President with his great enthusiasm and earnestness in encouraging industries, particularly cottage industries readily sanctioned the amount. I did not wait then for a building to be put up by the P. W. D. for the purpose but went straight ahead and put up a shed in which these experiments have been conducted. I hope the honourable members have seen the little display which the President has kindly permitted me to put up in one of the side rooms of the Council Chamber. I may inform the honourable members that kora grass is one of the principal items of raw material used in the making of mats exhibited here. This kora grass grows all over the backwaters particularly in the water-logged areas near Veli and similar places in our Kari-lands. People could not find any use for this grass. We got a quantity of that recently and tried whether it could be utilised for cottage industries, especially in the making of mats. A few mats in good design were made and displayed at the last exhibition and at the Sri Mulam Institute. Now, there is an enquiry from Bombay for one thousand dozens of these mats. How to supply this demand is the real problem now. I have taken the trouble to display these things here just to show how countries abroad assess the value and importance of our much neglected articles. Not only that, it was found some time later that the Alwaye Textile Mills which were started nearly two years ago could not sell their yarn in the country, because that yarn was found not useful for cloth manufacture. On account of the prohibitory order of Government that yarn should not be exported from the Mills to British India, I was asked by the Government to make enquiry on the application of the Mills for permission to export the yarn and report on it. On examination I found the yarn to be waste cotton yarn of number 2 and 4 counts which could not be used for the weaving of ordinary cloth. I told the mill authorities and I would make a recommendation to Government allowing them to export most of the stock and that they should give us a sample bale of yarn for experiments as to the best possible use we could make of it for cottage industries. They were good enough to send us a bale of yarn of No. 4 count. By colouring and dyeing and by weaving that yarn and interweaving it with kora gass, our trial proved a splendid success. Beautiful mats of the size exhibited which the honourable members saw at the display were the outcome. I am glad to inform the honourable House about

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. E. I. Chacko.]

the experience I had in the matter with an American Military Officer who is stationed here. He purchases a considerable number of curios and other articles from various parts of India for the delectation of the United States Army. The United States Army stationed in the different parts of India is purchasing every month Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs worth of curios and other cottage industry goods from India. When I showed the American Military Officer a few of the samples exhibited here, he expressed his readiness to take a good number of those articles to the value of a few thousands of rupees. He also expressed the idea that after the war is over, perhaps America would consume a good lot of these things.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know what are these curios referred to?

Mr. E. I. Chacko: I will come to that presently. He expressed the hope that perhaps shiploads of the articles made of kora grass and similar cottage industries products would be purchased by America after the war. That being the case, I am prepared to give an assurance here and now that there is a large demand out side for Travancore cottage industry goods. Regarding curios, that refers particularly to ivory articles. The American gentleman had an interview with the Dewan— President very recently and I met him also as instructed by the Dewan. He acquainted us with what is happening at present as regards the ivory carvings of Travancore. Sir, it is a well-known fact that Travancore has a long established reputation for the manufacture of the best ivory articles in the world. But this reputation has been suffering of late due to the deterioration in quality of the ivory goods produced by our artisans. There is cut-throat competition among the financing middlemen who exploit the poor artisan producer and on account of the present large demand for ivory articles, anything which is made in ivory without any regard for art or design is fetching high price. What that American Officer told me was that the ivory articles got here for Rs. 15 or 20 are sold at Rs. 125 or so at Calcutta. When he came here, he enquired about the total volume of ivory work done in Travancore every month. It was found that articles worth between Rs. 50 to 60 thousand are produced here at the present taking into account the high prices prevailing now. The United States Army people are buying every month ivory articles to the value of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and their officer thinks that 90 per cent. of the ivory goods so purchased belong to Travancore. In other words, articles worth Rs. 50,000 are purchased in Travancore and taken over to Calcutta where a sum of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rs. 2 to 2¼ lakhs is procured for our goods. Of the nearly 2½ lakhs worth of goods purchased from here in this manner, let us see where all this amount goes, and whether the poor artisan producer of Travancore enjoys the fruits of his labour and skill. We will also see whether even the financial middlemen of Travancore are in any way benefited, or, whether it all goes to improve the wealth and prosperity of the people of Bengal or Sind whose agents come down here and make Trivandrum their abode from month to month and year to year since the last 3 or 4 years and making purchases at as low a price as possible and selling in turn to other similar agents at much higher prices who in turn sell to the American consumer at very high and unreasonable prices.

Mr. G. Revi Varma: What about the precious stones in Venjaramood ?

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Sir, it was said a few years ago that people were digging up cat's eye or 'Vyduryam' from Manikkal pakuthi and certain neighbouring pakuthies of Nedumangad and Chirayinkil taluks and that the people were selling these things to merchants of Bombay and other places at very high prices. The Government wanted to find the truth of that matter. An investigation was conducted through the agency of a well-known prospecting firm, It has been found that there are cat's eye stones available. After experimenting with it, I have to inform here that it would not be possible to say definitely whether it could be commercially worked out.

Mr. G. Revi Varma: But may I tell the honourable member that very many people have amassed wealth by the sale of these precious stones ?

Mr. E. I. Chacko: That, we cannot say.

Mr. G. Revi Varma: That is my own experience.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: But I have to say this much. In one or two compounds, there was the occurrence of the cat's eye, to a greater degree than in other places. When the prospecting work was conducted, it was found not worth while to pursue the matter for the present, at any rate. The whole thing did not yield commercial results.

Mr. G. Revi Varma: But I have seen instances where a stone fetched over Rs. 3,000.

Mr. E. I. Chacko: I too heard the same thing. As a matter of fact, I got one or two small stones of that description and submitted it to the Dewan-President. They were found to be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. E. I. Chacko.]

good stones. But the whole trouble is whether it could be done on a commercial scale. That is the situation so far as my enquiry goes. Any way, Government have not dropped the matter. In course of time perhaps if we find it worth while to continue the prospecting work, we may go back on it.

Sir, I appeal to the honourable members of this House to take some real interest in the development of cottage industries. We have got all the factors contributing to the success of cottage industries in the State. In Travancore, with her wealth of natural resources, with cheap and intelligent labour, with still cheaper electric power, in fact, all the factors contributing to the success of any industry, the people are prepared to spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees for big scale industries and Government have now inaugurated a scheme for the industrialisation of the State. The post-war reconstruction schemes include the development of basic and heavy chemical industries, development of hydro-electric projects, starting of cement factories and when such big scale industries are inaugurated the products of those industries could be utilised in the development of our cottage industries. When the demobilised soldiers have begun to be repatriated they may be bringing in probably substantial amounts of money which they have earned from the various theatres of war. What are they going to do with their money? If only we show them the right path, there is scope for their pursuing it. When cottage industries are developed with the use of power, wherever possible and suitable they will find that their old village parts are fit for their living. When the repatriated soldiers go back to their places, gloomy aspect of life should not be staring at their faces. I hope that all the things I have brought before the House today are worthy of consideration by this House. There must be formed a central co-operative society which the Government, I am sure, will encourage and it must subsidise all primary societies in village parts. The central society must also be able to assure the procurement of raw material for the village units and also give all suitable designs for the manufacture of articles and further take up the responsibility of marketing the finished products. In this way, we can go ahead with the various industries in this country.

President: Before putting this grant to vote, there are three matters which I have to clear up. Firstly, with regard to the policy of Government as to the match factory to which reference was made by the honourable member Mr. Narayana Aiyar, it is probably not widely known that by an agreement with the Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of India, we get a portion of the match duty levied by the Government in proportion to our population. That is, if the Government of India as a result of the match excise duty gets two crores rupees, we get 6/400th of that two crores, according to population basis. As I said, we get so much of the total match duty in India each year under an arrangement which the Government of India have entered into with certain Indian States and Provinces. It is in pursuance of that outstanding background that we came to the conclusion that there was no point in giving active encouragement to small and struggling match industry units, because any amount that we get on this account from inside this State will be deducted from the amount that we get from the Government of India. Therefore, it was no use at all for this Government to have two or three struggling match factories in the State. Therefore, this Government from the very beginning, did not agree to the principle of granting any special concession or encouraging specifically small cottage factories like the one in Tenmalai. It may be noticed that Government implored the originators of the Tenmalai factory to increase the production in their factory and make it worth while. Nothing was done by them. Therefore the Government did not give any encouragement to these factories.

But now a factory has come into being which will probably be the biggest factory south of Bombay and this factory has surmounted the initial difficulties, put in a lot of capital, and ha started production, and they are now working in two shifts of 12 and 16 hours a day. They are producing three or four brands of matches which are finding a sale not only within this State but without the State also. Those responsible for that match factory have met me and have told me that already their success has evoked the rivalry and the active competition of the biggest match factory in India, the Vimco. They have been assured by this Government that Government are pledged to assist big manufacturing industries and that they will assist it against any foreign competition to the extent possible to this Government under their rules and laws. And honourable members may be assured that the arguments I put forward with regard to the small match industries do not apply to such industries and although we may lose to a certain extent, if it is really run on business lines, Government will give the utmost possible assistance.

With regard to silk, experiments have been conducted and they have proved that mulberry can be cultivated successfully and the silk worm reared and that silk of fairly good quality can be produced in the South of Travancore. A certain amount of such silk is with us now. There is a great future for that in the South

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

of Travancore, and some persons say, also in Central Travancore. And this is an industry which is worth pursuing at all costs, the reason being that it is essentially a cottage industry. The mulberry is grown in the compounds, and women and children very easily get accustomed to treat the cocoons and to produce the raw silk. As a matter of fact, during a recent visit of mine to Mysore, I was informed that on account of the necessity of silk, and more silk for parachutes, and things of that kind, the demand was so great that this industry has spread like wild fire in Mysore. The head of the administration in Mysore told me that practically every cottage gets a subsidiary income of Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 a month from mulberry cultivation and the silk cocoon industry. This is a matter which is certainly worth pursuing in this State.

What the Director of Industries stated with regard to ivory and other products, the screwpine mat, for instance, and the kora industry is perfectly accurate. As a matter of fact, on behalf of the United States Army, an officer came and met me and I sent him on to the Director of Industries and also to the chief ivory manufacturers here. The figures given by the Director of Industries are really below the mark. That officer told me and I have had it verified afterwards that Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs are being spent per month in India in the purchase of articles of buffalo horn, kaftghari work, chuckram work and ivory work. The average American soldier is paid about four times as much as a British soldier is paid and a British soldier is paid thrice as much as an Indian solder is, so an American soldier is paid 12 times as much as an Indian soldier. He does not know how to spend all his money. He is given very comfortable rations. There is a refrigerator in every American camp, and there are three or four radio sets in every canteen, and every one of their comforts is attended to. And therefore they do not know how to spend their money. They are told that all the ivory comes from Vizagapatam and Travancore—those are the two main places. The officer told me that for an image in my drawing room for which I paid Rs. 27, the average American solder is paying from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. This is what is taking place in Calcutta. I made an offer to the officer that if he will place orders with the Government of Travancore to the extent of, say, Rs. 2 lakhs per month we shall organise the industry here. I am waiting for a reply for that. In doing this organising work I wish to reiterate what fell from the Director of Industries. Government cannot possibly take upon themselves the organisation of these smaller industries. Government can finance the smaller industries if co-operative and other organisations come into being. If, for instance,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a Co-operative society of ivory works and what may be called enterpreneurs want some money to start a showroom, Government will be willing to finance them. But what is wanted here is a network of co-operative organisations.

The Kundara factory produces a great deal of very valuable China clay, which can be used for the manufacture of plates, spoons, cups and so forth for daily use. In the recent past we have not been able to do much in that direction because the whole of the material for the Kundara factory was needed for the war effort, and the factory was practically absorbed with war works. But the time is coming if it has not already come when these war orders will be diminished and China clay will be available. A great deal of it will be used for making commodities for daily use in homes, forsanitary apparatus, for insulators for electrical installations, but still a great deal will be left over. In countries like Japan, China clay is distributed from the factory through co-operative societies to various cottages and designs from time to time are supplied through the co-operative societies again or through the Director of Industries to the cottages. Those designs have to be formed, and then after they have made those articles, they bring them to the factory for firing, unless they have any kilns of their own or proper firing apparatus, and they are paid so much by the co-operative society. That is how the production work of China clay is carried on in China and Japan, developed sometimes by capitalists but often by co-operative societies. The whole future of the cottage industries is vitally interconnected with the future of the co-operative movement.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,15,182 under Demand No. XXI—Industries including Rubber Factory—was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND No. XXII.—CLAY REFINING AND PORCELAIN FACTORY.

Mr. K. N. Madhava Panicker : I move for a grant of Rs. 5,62,344 under Demand XXII—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory.

Mr. K. C. Chandy : സർ, ഈ ഫാക്ടറിയിലേക്കുള്ള ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ എതിർത്തുകൊണ്ടു ഒരു സംഗതി പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. നിയമസഭാ സംയുക്തസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് എന്തെല്ലാം മേന്മ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും, വാണിജ്യപരമായ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ ശരിയായും സമർത്ഥമായും നടത്തുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല എന്ന് നാം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഈ ഫാക്ടറിയുടെ കാര്യംതന്നെ നമുക്കു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly